

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended and claims 6, 12, 13 and 14 have been canceled herein, thus claims 1-5 and 7-11 are pending.

Claims 1-3 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Molas (US 2002/0078618 A1). Claims 12, 13 and 14 have been canceled herein thus the Examiner's rejections with respect to these claims have been rendered moot.

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Widlund et al. (US 5,931,162).

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sturino.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Widlund et al..

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin comprising:
a central absorbent pad, the central absorbent pad having a liquid pervious cover layer, a liquid impervious barrier layer and an absorbent core between the cover layer and barrier layer, a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, a pair of opposite longitudinal side edges, a first distal end and an opposite second distal end, a flap extending laterally outward from each longitudinal side edge along a line of juncture, each flap

extending substantially along the lateral centerline and adapted to fold over a crotch portion of an undergarment in use,

the central absorbent pad further comprising two preferential bending axes, each axis being inward from and adjacent to a respective longitudinal side edge and extending obliquely with respect to the longitudinal centerline, the axes converging towards the longitudinal centerline in the first distal end of the central absorbent pad,

wherein the central absorbent pad has a pair of opposite side margins, each side margin being adjacent a respective preferential bending line and adapted to fold along said respective preferential bending line, each side margin being capable of being folded over an edge of a wearer's undergarment in use, and

wherein said napkin has a first configuration wherein said napkin is structured and arranged to be used with a brief style undergarment and a second configuration wherein said side margins are in a folded condition such that said napkin is structured and arranged to be used with a thong style undergarment.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references either singularly, or in combination, disclose or suggest the structure recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

A petition for a three-month extension of time extending the time for response from January 5, 2005 until April 5, 2005 is enclosed herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any requisite fees to Deposit Account No. 10-0750.

According to currently recommended Patent Office policy, the Examiner is authorized to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephonic interview would advance the prosecution of this application.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnest solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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